



Dear Friends,

Connecticut faced many challenges in 2013 and we successfully met those challenges and moved the state in a positive direction. The legislature's response to the tragedy in Sandy Hook took center stage, but we also looked to our future and adopted a Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), addressed the need to strengthen our coastline infrastructure, and made our state more economically competitive by convening the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE).

In response to the tragedy that took place in Sandy Hook this past December, the legislature listened to Connecticut residents and worked in a bipartisan manner to improve school security, firearm safety and access to mental health services in an effort to prevent such a catastrophic event from happening again.

We also balanced our budget while maintaining assistance to cities and towns - and not introducing any new taxes.

- We gave seniors a choice in their long term care through "Aging in Place", assisted struggling homeowners by improving the foreclosure mediation process and increased funding for affordable housing.
- We led the way to cheaper, cleaner and more reliable energy by establishing the CES, took the first step in GMO labeling and established a mattress recycling program.
- We increased penalties for those connected to the human trafficking of minors, took steps to reduce the incidents of racial profiling and come November 2014, we get to vote and decide on whether or not to allow early voting in the future.

I am proud to have worked on a budget that maintained state funding for Westport, including funding for vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

I look forward to answering your questions about any issues facing our state or you personally.



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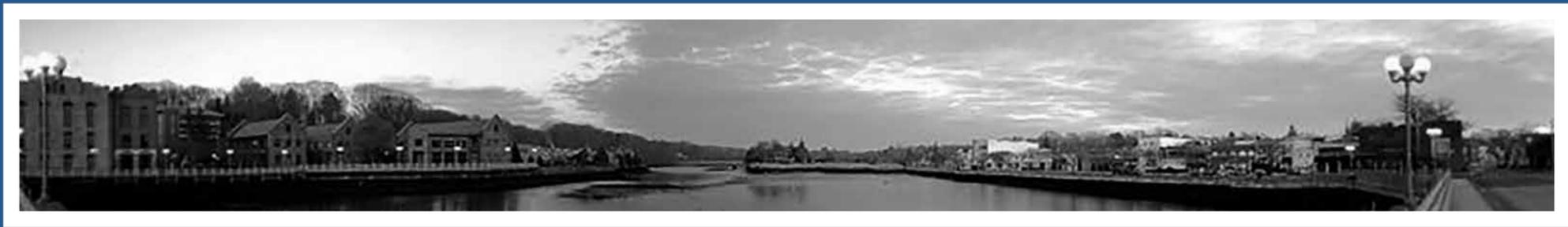
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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ANOTHER TOUGH BUDGET



While balancing a difficult budget on time, we maintained Westport's state funding, helping keep our taxes stable. In my role on the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I worked hard to oppose a gimmick which would have sold off electric ratepayers to the highest bidder, including the elderly and those on fixed incomes.

Additionally this year, I helped secure \$125,000 for improvements to the Westport Country Playhouse and \$500,000 for downtown improvements. Since taking office, I've been able to secure close to \$1.5 million in additional bond funds and grants for Westport.

I've also assisted 6 local businesses in securing over \$711,000 Small Business Express Grants and Loans so far with more to come.

CLEAN MARINAS

This law puts Connecticut's marinas in a unique position to reduce water pollution from oil, wax run off and sewage. The legislation allows a municipality to contract directly with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) for harbor improvement projects and gives priority funding to eligible projects that comply with the Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Clean Marina Program.

A SAFER POST ROAD

DOT Commissioner Jim Redeker joined me in Westport earlier this year to address traffic flow and pedestrian safety on the Post Road. Subsequently, we met to discuss a plan for solving problems at other Post Road intersections.



PROTECTING OUR SHORELINE

Recent severe storms have underscored the vulnerability of our state's coastline. As a member of Connecticut's Shoreline Preservation Task Force, I helped craft legislation which requires the state and municipalities to develop plans for development, conservation and emergency management, based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) projections for sea level changes in our part of the country. The law facilitates the reconstruction and repair of structures on our coastline that have been affected by the recent series of severe storms. It also helps protect coastal structures in future storms by allowing towns and property owners to temporarily fortify property before the start of a hurricane or tropical storm with temporary structures, including sand bags, blocks and other suitable materials.

REGIONAL EFFICIENCIES

I served as a member of the bipartisan MORE Commission (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) charged with finding ways for towns to lower costs and increase efficiencies through regional collaboration. To that end, I introduced a bill, which is now law, allowing Westport to pursue efficiencies via the creation of a multi-town emergency communications dispatch center, recognized nationally as a way for municipalities to save money.



REAL GUN REFORM

The legislature passed the strongest gun safety law in the country, requiring background checks on the sale of all firearms and ammunition, expanding the assault weapons ban, placing a ban on high capacity magazines over 10 bullets and creating a first-in-the-nation dangerous weapon offender registry. It also begins the process for setting standards for school security, including funding for school security upgrades and improved access to mental health services for individuals and families.

OUR ENERGY FUTURE

As Vice-Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, I played a direct role in fashioning a broad, bipartisan compromise and subsequent passage of the state's Comprehensive Energy Strategy. The plan promotes greater energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources. The plan also includes strategies to help the economy, such as the expansion of natural gas availability. Of course, betting on natural gas provokes questions about the controversial practice of hydraulic fracturing. Although my bill for a moratorium on fracking waste failed to get a vote this year, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection promised a study of the department's protocol for handling fracking waste with a report due back in 2014.

WHAT'S IN OUR FOOD?

I led the fight for ground-breaking legislation to help consumers identify GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms) in the foods they feed their families. So far, Maine plans to follow our lead. Three other states must pass GMO legislation for our law to take effect.



SAVING LONG ISLAND SOUND

We banned the use of insecticides methoprene and resmethrin from along the Connecticut shoreline in an effort to reduce their impact on the struggling lobster population in Long Island Sound. We'll follow up with our New York neighbors to try and expand the ban.

AGING IN PLACE

As a member of the Aging Committee, I've helped Connecticut's model of Aging in Place become law. Keeping our seniors in their homes is paramount to their well-being and saves money. The state has established a dedicated Department of Aging and has begun a major initiative which will make it easier for seniors to age in place – in their communities with families and friends.

